AO 91 (Rev. 02/09) Criminal Complaint

Felony

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
Southern District of Texas

United States of America
v.
Salvador VILLARREAL, Jr.

Defendant

Case No. B-16-1135-MJ

United States District Court
Southern District of Texas
FILED

DEC - 1 2016

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
On or about the date of September 25, 2016 through November 25, 2016 in the county of Cameron in the Southern District of Texas, the defendant violated 22 U. S. C. § 2778 and 22 C.F.R§§. 121.1, 123.1, 127.1, and 127.3 an offense described as follows:

Knowingly and willfully exported into the Country of Mexico from the United States of America, defense articles on the United States Munitions List (22 CFR, Chapter 1, Part 121), that is, to wit: five (5) AR-style and AK-style rifles being non-automatic or semi-automatic firearms to caliber .50 inclusive (12.7mm), which is designated as a defense article on the United States Munitions List, without having first obtained from the Department of State a license for such export or written authorization for such export.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See Attachment "A".

☒ Continued on the attached sheet

Complainant's signature

Erasmo Chapa, HSI Special Agent
Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 12/01/2016

Judge's signature

City and state: Brownsville, Texas

Ignacio Torteya III, U.S. Magistrate
Printed name and title

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Attachment A

David J. Bradley, Clerk of Court

On November 29, 2016, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) was contacted by Customs and Border Protection at the Brownsville & Matamoros Port of Entry in Brownsville, TX, regarding Salvador VILLARREAL, Jr. (US citizen). A "look out" had been placed by HSI on VILLARREAL after Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and HSI special agents conducting a firearms investigation, discovered VILLARREAL was allegedly involved in exporting firearms into Mexico.

VILLARREAL was read his Miranda rights in the Spanish language and was also provided a copy to follow along, to which he voluntarily agreed to give a statement without the presence of an attorney.

VILLARREAL stated he had been involved in illegally exporting firearms into Mexico for approximately two months. VILLARREAL stated during that time frame he had illegally exported five firearms into Mexico on five different occasions, further stating the firearms were a mix of AR-style and AK-style rifles. VILLARREAL also stated he concealed the firearms in the engine compartment of the different vehicles he drove into Mexico. VILLARREAL stated he purchased the firearms in the U.S for $1000.00 and then sold the firearms in Mexico for $1500.00 apiece, resulting in a $500.00 monetary gain for himself.

VILLARREAL stated that on November 25, 2016, he made entry into the U.S. from Mexico and purchased an AR-style rifle from an individual identified as Ruben Cordova. VILLARREAL stated he concealed the firearm in the engine compartment of a GMC Acadia in order to smuggle and illegally export the firearm into Mexico.

VILLARREAL stated that he knew it was against U.S. law to illegally export firearms from the U.S. into Mexico. VILLARREAL further stated that he did not have a Department of State License to export firearms into Mexico.

Erasmo Chapa, Special Agent
Homeland Security Investigations

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence on December 1, 2016, in Brownsville, TX.

Ignacio Torteya III
United States Magistrate Judge